Rajiv Gandhi National Child Service Centre

†855. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are introducing Rajiv Gandhi National Child Service Centre to look after the children of working and sick women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these child centres would be opened alongwith details of the States where these centres would be opened and the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has revised the Creche Scheme and re-launched it as Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers.

(b) and (c) The Scheme provides financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 per creche at the start for infrastructure and Rs. 42,384 per creche per annum for recurring expenditure. Each creche would provide day care services, supplementary nutrition and health care for 25 children. The Scheme envisages setting up of 14719 new creches by the end of Tenth Plan across the country giving priority to uncovered districts.

Infanticide of Girl Child

856. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a new survey published in London in the first half of January, 2006 by Lancet magazine stating *inter-alia* that 5 million baby girls have been murdered in the country every year since 1994; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per information furnished by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, a study on Low male-to-female sex ratio of children born in India, national survey of 1:1 million households was conducted by Lancet. The

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.